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## Phillips, Clem Benjamin, 1894-1970 (MSS 365)

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*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 365     PHILLIPS, Clem Benjamin, 1894-1970**

1 box. 7 folders. 110 items. 1917-1920. Originals.

2011.1.13

***BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE***

Clem Benjamin Phillips, the son of Edward and Annie Phillips, was born on 20 February 1894 in St. Charles, Missouri, and died on 11 June 1970. In August 1917, Phillips was called up for military service and arrived for training at Camp Funston (part of Fort Riley), Kansas in October 1917. His attempts to obtain an exemption from military duty in order to assist his parents on the family farm were unsuccessful, and in March 1918 he was sent to Camp Merritt, New Jersey prior to being shipped overseas.

Phillips arrived in France with the American Expeditionary Force in May, 1918. He saw action at Chateau-Thierry, where he suffered a shrapnel wound to the neck on 14 July 1918. Phillips spent time in hospital and then moved to a convalescent camp, where he remained until the war ended and he was shipped home. Returning to the United States through Camp Merritt, Phillips arrived at Camp Zachary Taylor in Louisville, Kentucky in April 1919 and received his discharge. He continued to obtain medical treatment, however, at the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri.

***COLLECTION NOTE***

This collection consists primarily of letters written by Clem Benjamin Phillips during his military service from 1917-1919 and shortly thereafter. He writes to his father Edward and mother Annie, his younger sisters Florence, Viola and Annie, and his older brother Edward U. Phillips in St. Peters, Missouri. Included are his notice of call to service and documentation of his attempts while at Camp Funston to obtain an exemption (Folders 2-3). Phillips' letters cover his training at Camp Funston (Folders 2-3), his transfer to Camp Merritt, New Jersey (Folder 3), his service in France (Folders 4-6), and his time in hospital in St. Louis (Folder 7). He writes of military life at Camp Funston, including the weather, a measles outbreak, his own bout with mumps (Folder 2), and a murder-suicide involving an officer (Folder 3). He also writes of life at Camp Merritt (Folder 3), his duty in France (Folder 4), and the circumstances of his combat injury (Folders 4, 5). He discusses farm matters with his father and provides a few details on other young men with whom he entered military service.

The collection also contains letters written to Phillips' parents and sisters by relatives, including his maternal aunt, Lena Heidbreder, and a cousin, Annie Raus, both in St. Charles, Missouri, and cousins Anna and Dora Stahlhuth in Webster Groves, Missouri. They relay news of family and of their war work for the Red Cross, and express their concern for Clem. Of interest are Dora Stahlhuth's description of the effects on St. Louis of the influenza epidemic (Folder 5); Anna Stahlhuth also writes of a cousin's death from influenza while serving in the military (Folder 4). Also of interest is Annie Raus's description of celebrations in St. Charles upon news of the Armistice (Folder 5). A letter from a paternal uncle of Phillips, and two letters from friends, are included in the collection.

### ***SHELF LIST***

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Phillips, Clem Benjamin</b>	<b>1917-1920</b>	<b>110 items</b>
Folder 1	Inventory		1 item
Folder 2	Clem B. Phillips – Correspondence	1917	22 items
Folder 3	Clem B. Phillips – Correspondence	Jan. 1918- Apr. 1918	28 items
Folder 4	Clem B. Phillips – Correspondence	May 1918- Sept. 1918	20 items
Folder 5	Clem B. Phillips – Correspondence	Oct. 1918- Dec. 1918	18 items
Folder 6	Clem B. Phillips – Correspondence	1919	17 items
Folder 7	Clem B. Phillips – Correspondence	1920	4 items

### ***BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD***

MSS PHILLIPS, Clem Benjamin, 1917-1920  
365 1894-1970

Letters of Clem Benjamin Phillips of St. Peters, Missouri, written during his World War I military training in Kansas and New Jersey and while serving in France. Includes correspondence of other Phillips family members and relatives.

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## ***SUBJECT ANALYTICS***

Bloebaum, H. F. B1,F3  
 Camp Funston, Kansas – Comments about, 1917 B1,F2,3  
 Camp Merritt, New Jersey – Comments about, 1918-1919 B1,F3,6  
 Carrico, Hiram B1,F6  
 Heidbreder, William B1,F5  
 Heidbreder, Lena B1,F4-6  
 Influenza – Comments about, 1918 B1,F4,5  
 Insurance – Soldiers' and Sailors' – Relating to, 1917 B1,F2,3  
 Military service, Compulsory – World War I – Relating to, 1917 B1,F2,3  
 Phillips, Annie, b. 1867? – Correspondence B1,F2-6  
 Phillips, Annie, b. 1906? – Letters to B1,F3-6  
 Phillips, Edward – Correspondence B1,F2-6  
 Phillips, Edward U. – Letter to B1,F4  
 Phillips, Florence – Letters to B1,F2-7  
 Phillips, George H. B1,F6  
 Phillips, Viola – Correspondence B1,F2-6  
 Raus, Annie B1,F4-6  
 Red Cross – Letterhead, 1918-1919 B1,F4-6  
 Red Cross – Relating to, 1918 B1,F4,5  
 Roth, Bertha B1,F6  
 Stahlhuth, Anna May B1,F4-7  
 Stahlhuth, Dora E. B1,F5-7  
 Stahlhuth, Dora E. – Relating to B1,F2,4,5  
 Whisler, Lewis R., d. 1918 – Relating to B1,F3  
 World War I, 1914-1918 – American Expeditionary Force, 1917-1918 B1,F4-6  
 World War I, 1914-1918 – Armistice – Comments about, 1918 B1,F5  
 World War I, 1914-1918 – France, 1918 B1,F4,5  
 World War I, 1914-1918 – Military life, 1917-1918 B1,F2-5  
 World War I, 1914-1918 – Postwar period – France, 1918-1919 B1,F5,6  
 World War I, 1914-1918 – YMCA – Relating to B1,F3-6  
 YMCA – Letterhead, 1918-1919 B1,F3-6

Niedermeier/Jeffrey 04/26/2011